

18. The Proposed Province of Vandallia.—As early as 1756, Governor Dinwiddie urged upon the English Government the necessity of founding a new province with an independent government in the Ohio Valley. And in the years following, many statesmen, among them Lord Halifax, strongly supported the plan. The efforts of the Mississippi Company as well as those of the Ohio Company had failed, but in 1773, another effort was made. A petition signed by many eminent Virginians, went over-sea praying for the formation of a separate government for a province to be known as "VANDALIA," of which George Mercer was to be Governor and the seat of government was to be located at the mouth of the Great Kanawha river. But the renewal of the Indian wars, together with the Revolution, put an end to all these plans. Had it not been so, it is probable that there would have been an independent government in West Virginia nearly a century before it came.

CHAPTER VIII.

LORD DUNMORE'S WAR—THE BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT.

From 1773 to 1775.

1. The Era of Peace Ended.—The treaty which had remained unbroken since 1764, was now to be violated on the part of the English. In 1774, several Indians were killed on the South Branch of the Potomac, and Bald Eagle, a chieftain known along the whole frontier, was murdered while descending the river in his canoe. A German family by the name of Stroud had settled on Gauley river, and, in the absence of the husband, the wife and children were murdered by the Indians. At this time a chief known as Captain Bull, together with a few other Indians, resided at what is now known as Bulltown in Braxton county. They were believed by many to be friendly to the whites, but the trail of those who wrought ruin at the Stroud home, led toward Bulltown, and suspicion fell on its inhabitants. Five men followed the trail and it afterward appeared that they murdered every inhabitant at Bulltown and threw their bodies into the Little Kanawha river.

2. Murder of Logan's Family.—On the 16th of April, 1774, a large canoe filled with white men from Pittsburgh, was attacked by Indians near Wheel-

ing, and one of the men in it killed. The people living in the vicinity now assembled at Wheeling Creek and issued a declaration of war. Logan was a distinguished chieftain of the Mingo tribe, which had its home on what is now called Mingo Bottom, near the present site of Steubenville, Ohio. On the 30th of April, 1774, a body of twenty or thirty men from Wheeling ascended the Ohio to the mouth of Yellow Creek, where, on the West Virginia side, under circumstances of great perfidy, they murdered ten Indians, among whom was the family of Logan. This exasperated the Indians to such an extent that war was inevitable, and the storm burst with all its fury on the Virginia frontier. Bands of savages scoured the present State of West Virginia, laying waste the settlements. Men, women and children fell victims to savage fury. Infants' brains were dashed out against trees and bodies were left to decay in the summer sun or to become food for wild beasts and birds of prey. It was a reign of terror along the whole western border.

3. Expedition of Colonel Angus McDonald.—Tidings of war were carried to Williamsburg, then the capital of Virginia, and Governor Dunmore ordered Colonel Angus McDonald to collect the settlers on the Upper Potomac river and in the vicinity of Wheeling and to organize a force sufficient to stay the tide of blood until a larger army could be collected in the Shenandoah Valley and east of the Blue Ridge. Colonel McDonald obeyed the summons and hastened to Wheeling, where he established his headquarters. Captain Michael Cresap, of Maryland,

entered the Virginia service and with a small force joined McDonald, the ranking officer of the expedition. In June, four hundred men began the invasion of the Indian country. The troops descended the Ohio to the mouth of Captina creek, where the march into the wilderness began. Far in the interior of what is now the State of Ohio, the Indian towns were burned and the cornfields laid waste. Then the expedition returned to Wheeling, having three captive chiefs. But the war on the frontier continued.

4. Governor Dunmore Hastens to Collect an



LORD DUNMORE.*

Army.—To meet the general uprising of the united tribes north of the Ohio, Virginia made ready for war and the din of preparation resounded along her borders. Lord Dunmore left Williamsburg, and passing over the Blue Ridge, assisted in mustering an army. A force of two thousand three hundred veteran troops was collected in two divisions

called the northern and southern wings, to march by different routes, but to be reunited on the banks of the Ohio.

*John Murray, fourth Earl of Dunmore, and the last royal Governor of Virginia, was born in 1722. He was appointed Governor of New York in January, 1770, and of Virginia in July, 1771, and arrived in the latter Colony in 1772. In the summer of the coming year, he visited the frontiers of the Colony and spent some time at Pittsburgh. Indian hostilities were renewed in 1774.

5. The Southern Wing of the Army.—The southern division numbering eleven hundred men, under the command of General Andrew Lewis, was divided into two regiments, commanded by Colonel William Fleming, of Botetourt county, and Colonel Charles Lewis, of Augusta county. The troops gathered at Camp Union, afterward Fort Savannah, and now Lewisburg, the seat of justice of Greenbrier county. The last to arrive were two companies, one from Bedford and a second from Washington county, the latter under the command of Captain Evan Shelby, afterward a governor of Kentucky.

6. Westward March of the Southern Division.—On the 6th of September, 1774, Colonel Charles Lewis left camp at the head of six hundred Augusta county troops, who were to proceed to the mouth of Elk river and on the land on which Charleston, the capital of West Virginia, now stands, construct canoes in which to transport the army supplies to the mouth of the Great Kanawha river. Major Thomas Posey, the Commissary-General, and Jacob Warwick, the butcher, had charge of the supplies and had with them four hundred pack-horses, one hundred and eight head of beef cattle and fifty-four thousand pounds of flour ground on mills in the Shenandoah Valley. On the 12th of September, General Lewis left Captain

and that year is famous as that of "Dunmore's War." He was the only royal Governor that ever led a military expedition into the Ohio Valley. Dunmore was loyal to the British cause and was driven from Virginia in 1775 by the Revolutionary patriots. He escaped as a British man-of-war. In 1796 he was appointed Governor of Bermuda, and died at Ramsgate, England, in May, 1808.

Anthony Bledsoe with the sick at Camp Union, and with the remainder of the army numbering five hundred and fifty men, struck the tents and took up the line of march through the wilderness. The advance was overtaken at the mouth of Elk river, now Charleston, and here those who had fallen sick were left in care of Captain Slaughter, and the army thus reunited proceeded down the north side of the Great Kanawha to its junction with the Ohio, where it arrived on the 6th of October.

7. The Northern Wing of the Army.—The northern wing, commanded by Governor Dunmore in person, and numbering twelve hundred men, was collected chiefly from the counties of Frederick, Berkeley, Hampshire and in what is now Jefferson. Three of the companies had served with McDonald and on their return enlisted in Dunmore's army. The westward march began by way of Potomac Gap, and on reaching the Monongahela river, the force was divided, Colonel William Crawford with five hundred men, proceeding overland with the cattle, while Governor Dunmore with seven hundred men descended the river by way of Fort Pitt. Both columns reached Wheeling—then Fort Fincastle—on the 30th of September. The combined forces at once descended the Ohio to the mouth of Hockhocking river, where they halted and built Fort Gower, the first structure of its kind reared by Englishmen in Ohio.

8. General Lewis' Army at the Mouth of the Great Kanawha.—The spot on which the army encamped at the junction of the Great Kanawha and

Ohio, was the triangular point between the two rivers. The site was one of awe-inspiring grandeur. Here were seen hills, valleys, plains and promontories, all covered with gigantic forests, the growth of centuries, standing in their native majesty, unsubdued by the hand of man. There were no marks of industry nor of the exercise of those arts which minister to the comfort and convenience of man. Here Nature had for ages held undisputed sway in a land inhabited only by the enemies of civilization. To this spot the Virginians gave the name of Camp Point Pleasant, from which that of the town has been derived. Thus the first week in October, the two wings of the army lay upon the Ohio, but separated by a distance of more than sixty miles.

9. The Battle of Point Pleasant.—When General Lewis reached the mouth of the Great Kanawha, he was very much disappointed at not meeting Governor Dunmore. But messengers arrived with dispatches which gave information of the movements of that official and contained an order for the southern wing of the army to meet the northern wing at the Shawnee towns on the Sciota, far out in the Ohio wilderness. But Lewis' men were much fatigued with a march of one hundred and sixty miles; pens had to be built for the cattle and the commander replied to the Governor's message, informing him of these facts, but stated that he would join him as soon as all of the food supply and powder should reach Point Pleasant. This was on the 8th of October and on the 9th—Sunday—the Chaplain preached the first

sermon ever delivered at the mouth of the Great Kanawha river.

10.—**The Battle Day.**—Early on the morning of the 10th of October, two soldiers, Robertson and Hickman, went up the Ohio in quest of deer, and, when about three miles from camp, near the mouth of Oldtown creek they discovered a large body of Indians just arising from their encampment. The



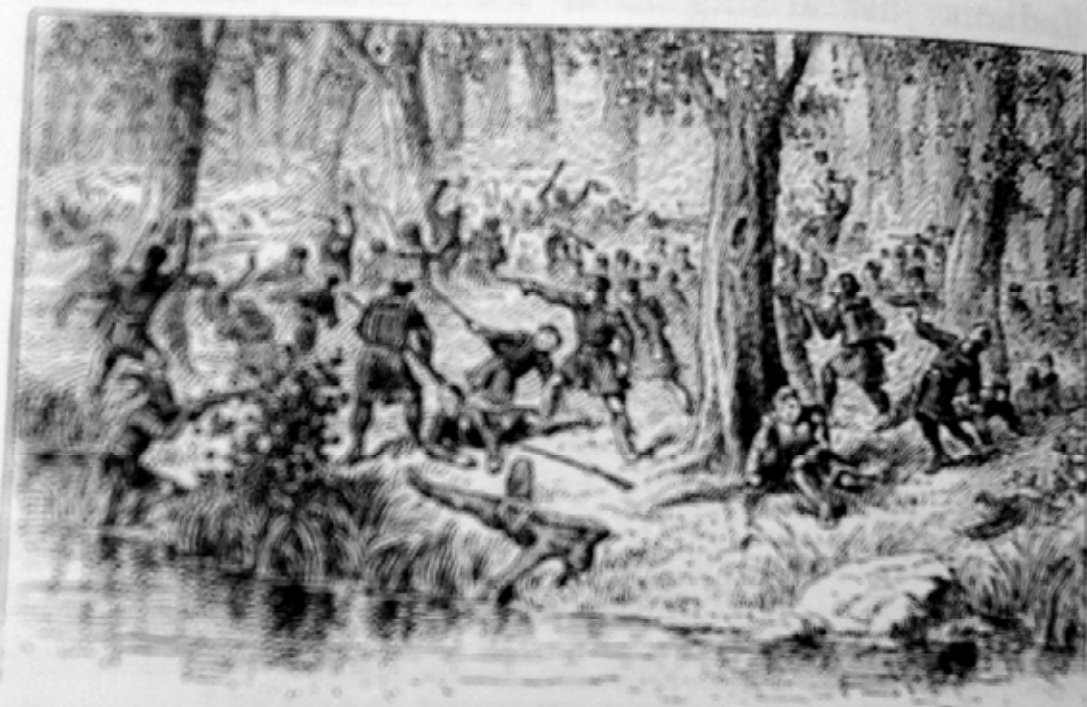
PLAN OF BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT.*

soldiers were fired upon and Hickman was killed, but Robertson ran into camp and informed General Lewis that he had seen a body of Indians covering four acres of ground. Within an hour after their presence

* In this plan of the Battle of Point Pleasant, *a*, represents the point at which the battle began and where Colonel Charles Lewis was mortally wounded; *b*, the line of battle as it was, at mid-day; *c*, is the spot on which Cornstalk was afterwards buried, the same being now within the court-house enclosure and about fifty feet from the rear entrance of the court-house; *d*, the site on which Fort Randolph was erected immediately after the battle.

had been made known, a general engagement began, the battle-line extending from the bank of the Ohio to that of the Kanawha and distant half a mile from the point.

11. A Bloody Field. — Colonel Charles Lewis, brother of General Lewis, led the advance and fell mortally wounded at the first volley. His troops



BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT.

wavered under an incessant fire, but Colonel Fleming advanced along the bank of the Ohio, and, although he was severely wounded, he remained at the head of the column and thus checked the Indian advance. The struggle continued with unabated fury until late in the afternoon, when General Lewis, seeing the impracticability of dislodging the Indians by the most vigorous attack, detached three companies with orders to proceed up the Kanawha river about half a mile

and then under cover of the banks of Crooked creek, attack the Indians in the rear. This movement secured for the Virginians a complete victory. The Indians finding themselves thus attacked, gave way and about sun-down commenced a precipitate retreat across the Ohio river toward their towns on the Scioto. The victory was dearly bought. Of the Virginians, seventy-five were killed and one hundred and forty were wounded.

12. The Indian Army.—The loss of the Indians could never be ascertained, nor could the number engaged be known. Their army was composed of warriors from the different nations north of the Ohio and comprised the flower of the Shawnee, Delaware, Mingo, Wyandotte and Cayuga tribes, led on by their respective chiefs at the head of whom was Cornstalk, king of the Northern Confederacy. Never, perhaps, did men exhibit a more conclusive evidence of bravery in making a charge and fortitude in withstanding one, than did these undisciplined soldiers of the forest on the field at Point Pleasant. The voice of Cornstalk could be heard above the din and roar of the battle.

13. The Virginia Army North of the Ohio.—Colonel Fleming was left in command at Camp Point Pleasant on the site of which he reared the walls of Fort Randolph, and the place was never afterward deserted. General Lewis, with a force of one thousand men, each with ten days' supply of flour, crossed the Ohio, and on the evening of the 17th of October encamped on the opposite side. On the following